

MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee Meeting

December 17, 2002

Annotated Minutes

The following items were presented:

- **Member Roundtable.** [MPO, RTPO, and WSDOT](#) members introduced themselves and presented informational news items about their area.

ACTION ITEM: If Committee members would like to have their informational news items available on WSDOT's MPO/RTPO website, please e-mail an overview paragraph to Katherine Klockenteger for posting.

- **Committee Chair and Vice Chair Election.** King Cushman, PSRC, was elected as Committee Chair, and Mark Kushner, BFCG, was elected as Vice Chair. A certificate was presented to outgoing Committee Chair, Jim Miller, in recognition of his outstanding leadership over the past two years.
- **Air Quality-AMPO/AASHTO.** King Cushman proposed the Coordinating Committee submit a response to AMPO/AASHTO requesting a change in the frequency (from every three years to every five years) TMAs must update their Regional Transportation Plans. The Committee agreed.

ACTION ITEM: King will develop and submit a response to the AMPO/AASHTO.

- **Legislative Committee Memberships.** Todd Carlson provided an overview of the 2003 legislative committee memberships. He also indicated Senator Horn supports modeling and the planning process, and is interested in the details of federal funding. Todd also discussed Doug MacDonald's recent statewide outreach to determine what transportation issues are most important to Washington State's citizens.
- **Post Referendum 51.** Ashley Probart discussed the failure of Referendum 51 and the status of the Department of Transportation's staffing and finance levels. Ashley also noted the Governor's proposed budget, for cabinet agencies, would be published in the near future.

Steve Gorchester, TIB, mentioned Governor Locke was suggesting a merger of Transportation Improvement Board, County Road Administration Board, and Freight Mobility Board, in order to save administration costs. If this occurs, employees from those three agencies will be let go on June 30, and a new 15-member board will begin work on July 1, 2003.

- **RTPO Effectiveness.** Ashley indicated the presentation to the Commission might be held in February.
- **Transportation Permit Efficiency & Accountability Committee (TPEAC).** Todd Carlson handed out a "Draft Final Report-Briefing Paper" developed by the TPEAC subcommittee. The handout highlighted the Committee's mission, progress, fact-findings, etc.
- **Reauthorization of Transportation Enhancements.** Stephanie Tax indicated the enhancement program was working well for small jurisdictions and should be continued under the next Transportation Act. She did, however, note a problem did exist in obligating funds when the local agency match was not available.

Highways and Local Programs (H&LP) is preparing a manual called "Building Projects that Build Communities" and Stephanie handed out several brochures highlighting the manual's benefits. Stephanie was invited to update the Committee at the next meeting.

- **MPO Boundaries.** Due to the 2000 census, MPO urban boundaries must be redefined. Training to assist the MPOs in their boundary changes was provided on the west side of the state in late November, and for the east side of the state on October 22 (Wenatchee), 23 (Spokane), and 24 (Yakima).
- **TIPS.** Bill Wiebe stated five MPO TIPS had been presented to Governor Locke's staff for review and the governor's approval. He also stated they had been sent to FHWA and FTA for review and incorporation into the 2003 STIP.

This year three MPOs, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments and the Southwest Regional Transportation Council submitted amendments to their existing TIP. The planning office is reviewing them and will obtain the Secretary of Transportation's approval for inclusion in the STIP.

- **UPWP.** Bill Wiebe provided the draft FY 2004 UPWP guidance to each MPO/RTPO and WSDOT Region. Bill indicated federal funds had increased for all MPOs. He also indicated RTPO funding was being recalculated, with the ending of the RTPO "hold harmless" provision as well as changes due to the 2000 Census, including the listing of MPOs in Wenatchee, Mount Vernon and Lewiston-Clarkston.
- **Employment Security Data.** Todd Carlson reported the Employment Security Department (ESD) needed assistance to continue supporting the MPO/RTPOs in the use of employment data, and requested further support from MPO/RTPOs to strengthen the ESD employment data base with value added information. He also indicated the Planning Office may sponsor a **half day workshop in January** to assist the MPOs/RTPOs in their data gathering efforts.
- **GIS Smart Map Development for State/Local/Tribal Governments.** Tami Griffin gave a presentation and provided a handout on the Washington Transportation Framework for GIS. This included an explanation on the creation of electronic maps and how data is layered to serve multiple uses.
- **Straight Talk About Transportation.** Ashley Probart provided the MPOs/RTPOs with a copy of "Straight Talk About Transportation" that Doug MacDonald, Secretary of Transportation, provides to citizens and organizations. In order to identify the state transportation system's most important issues, Secretary MacDonald requests citizens to read the document and complete a survey. A copy of the survey is enclosed.
- **Federal Budget.** Ralph Wilhelmi stated there was an Internet announcement of an allocation of federal funds, to support continuation of the MPO program. However, because the federal budget was still a "continuing resolution" specific timing of when the money might be available to MPOs is uncertain.
- **New MPO Urban Boundaries.** Ralph stated the electronic version of the census designated urban area boundaries was transmitted to the MPOs/RTPOs. Ralph also noted a hard copy of the maps would be sent out on December 18.
- **MPO Guidebook Status.** Cliff Hall indicated his preliminary review of the guidebook was complete and he had passed several chapters to various TPO

staff members for review. Cliff stated he was looking at mid-January to send a draft to the MPOs.

Next Meeting Date and Location:

March 11, 2002, WestCoast SeaTac Hotel

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Reauthorization of Transportation Enhancements

Federal Public Lands Planning Coordination

Additional agenda items will be requested from Committee members around February 10, 2003.